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A HISTORY

OF THE

AMHERST BAPTIST CHURCH,

TO WHICH IS APPENDED

Historical Notes of the Town of Amherst.

BY REV. D. A. STEELE, D. D.

PRINTED BY CLAUDE DeL. BLACK; AMHERST, N. S.

1895.

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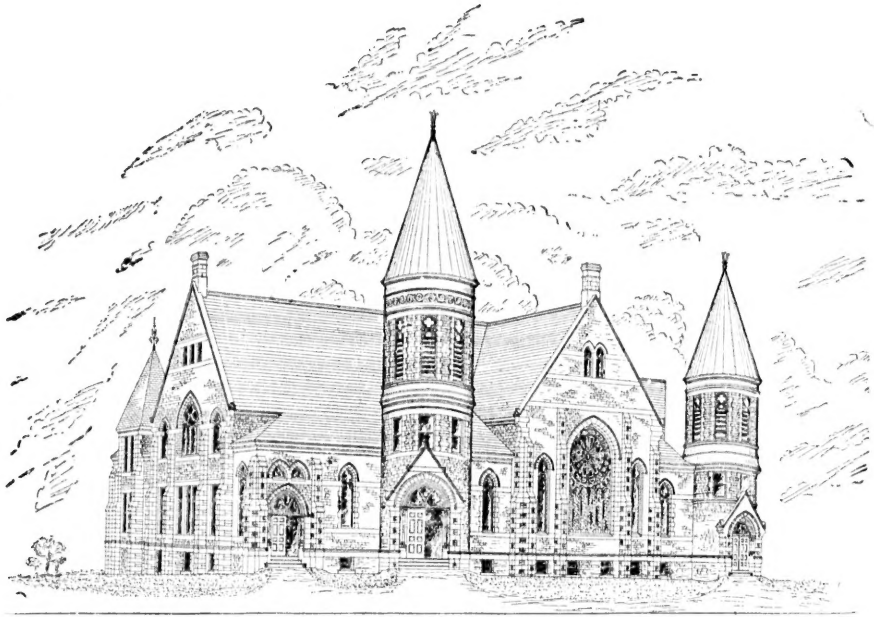

AMHERST BAPTIST CHURCH,

DEDICATED SEPT'R 1ST. 1895.

RHODES, CURRY & CO., LTD. BUILDERS,
AMHERST, N. S.

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CAL NOTES. • • •

Baptist Church.

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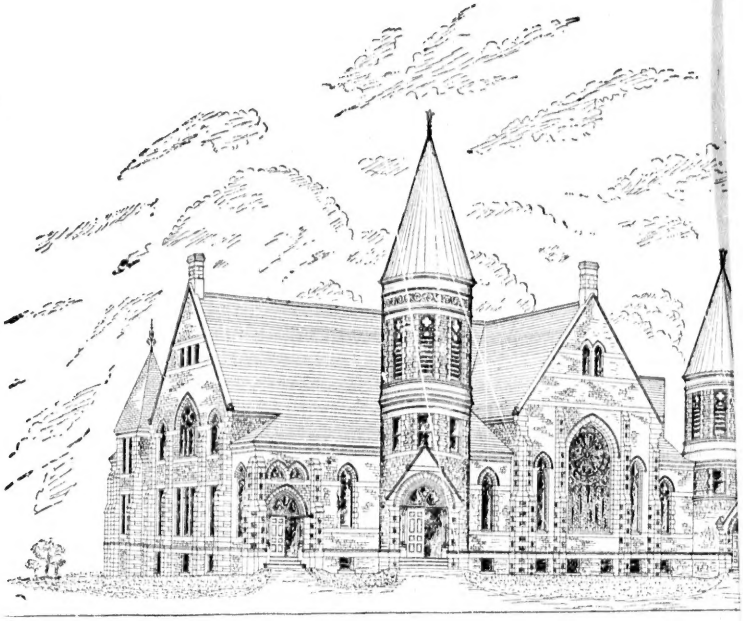

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• • • HISTORICAL NOTES. • • •

The Amherst Baptist Church.

The records of the church were all destroyed by the fire which consumed Moffat's Block (a large wooden structure comprising several houses on the site of the present brick block) in 1887. But from the minutes of the Association, and from private memoranda, we have been enabled to draw up the following account, which we believe in the main outlines to be correct.

1810 is the date given of late years for the institution of a Baptist Church here, but it is just probable that the church was organized a year or two earlier than this by Rev. Joseph Crandall. In the year 1810 the Baptist Association embracing Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, was held in Sackville N. B. The messengers from Amherst are there given as Thomas S. Black and William Freeman. The membership is reported as 15, the smallest on the list. Sackville gives 55 members, Salisbury, 46; Digby Neck, 69; Cornwallis, 56; Newport, 90; and Horton, 270. The 14 churches reporting have a total memership of 924 for the two Provinces. This 1810 minutes is the first printed, though there is extant, (in Rev. S. T. Rand's Jubilee Historical sketch 1849,) a memorandum of Elder Edward Manning of the third session, 1802, in which no mention is made of Amherst.

Mr. Cyrus Black drew up a sketch a year or two since, from which I learn that at the beginning of 1819, the Rev. CHARLES TUPPER, who eighteen months before, July 1817, had been ordained an evangelist in Cornwallis was engaged by the churches in Amherst, River Philip, and Westchester, half the time at Amherst for fifty pounds ($200.) Two

years later he removed to Amherst from River Philip. In 1820, at an Association held at Sackville, Samuel McCully was ordained. He was a farmer living all the latter part of his life at Amherst Point.—The old residents at that place ued to say that he taught them everything, how to farm, how to be Christians. The following year these good men were united as co-pastors—though Mr. McCully's labor was given gratuitously. Through the intervening years till 1840 the numbers go up and down. In 1818 the report says 23 ; in 1824 10, shewing that discipline had been applied ; in 1830, 30, dwindling to 26 in 1837 ; in 1839, there are but 29, so that the number had not quite doubled in 30 years ; in 1841 the number falls to 28, but thereafter a steady increase shows itself. In 1851, ths number is 112 ; in 1861, 216 : in 1871, 262 ; in 1881, 315 ; in 1895, 484. The depletion by dismissals to churches in other places, especially to churches in the United States, goes on with unvarylng regularity, otherwise the present total would be much larger. As has been noticed, the first pastor was Charles Tupper, D. D., whose ministry extended through a period of 32 years. He was not continuously in office for that time. In the year 1826, Mr. Tupper accepted a call to Germain St. Church St. John. He retnrned to Amherst the next year, Mr. McCully performing the duties of pastor meantime. In 1833 Mr. Tupper accepted an invitation to the Tryon and Bedeque field, P. E. I., but returned to Amherst the next year ; from that time to 1838, he and Mr. McCully were co-pastors, when Mr. T. took charge of the Baptist Seminary at Fredericton ; thence to St. John, remaining away from Amherst about two years. After this time Mr. McCully's services were solicited by other churches. He preached a great deal in Sackville and Shepody. Mr. Tupper continued pastor until 1851 when his resignation was accepted, and he removed to Melvern Square, Kings Co., where he labored until his death in Jan. 1881. Dr. Tupper, was a self-educated man, and by diligently using his time, became a linguist, far surpassing many college bred men. His diary for Dec. 22nd. 1859, contains the following entry : "Finished the perusal of Luther's German version of the Bible. I have now perused the whole of the sacred volume in eight languages ; these are Hebrew, Sryiac, Greek, Latin, Italian, French, German and English, besides the New Testament in Spanish and Portuguese." He published expository notes on the Syriac version, which, says his contemporary Dr. Cramp were very highly prized. In addition to his other studies he read largely on Theology and Ecclesiastical History ; wrote almost numberless

articles on Biblical subjects, started and edited the first denominational periodical, the BAPTIST MAGAZINE, published two or more controversial works, travelled far and wide as agent for the CHRISTIAN MESSENGER, and was Secretary for the Foreign Missionary Board for many years. These facts tell their own story ; there is no need of embellishment. Such men are rare in any country. Such was the first pastor of the Amherst Church.

"At this time, the people had not learned that the support of the Gospel is a part of religion, and the pastor's salary being small it was necessary that it be supplemented from some other quarter," says Mr. Black The "supplement" came, we presume, from his salary as teacher of the grammar School in Amherst, and also from a farm which Mr. Tupper owned and worked near Ainsley Black's.

During the pastorate of this scholarly man the church raised funds to aid in translating the Scriptures into Burmese ; (Dr. Judson's Bible,) and also forwarded one of the first contributions from the Maritime Provinces to the general purposes of the Burmese mission. He also was one of the first Temperance Reformers, and formed here in 1830 a Temperance Society. The degree of D. D. was bestowed from Acadia College in 1857, and it was worthily won. Besides being a literary man, he was one of the original promoters of that Institution, and for years one of its governing Board.

JOHN FRANCIS was a man of an entirely different nature, a Welshman, warm-hearted, social, but not distinguished for scholarship, or power of interpretation. He had the gift of exhortation, however, and other good men, assisted him on special occasions—Revs. W. G. Parker, Wm. Hobbs, John Rowe, and others. A number of conversions were the result. The Meeting Houses at Amherst Point, Salem, and Warren, were built during the brief pastorate of this zealous brother. He could not be held within the bounds of any church, and would leave for a week or two at any time, if he thought that the Lord required him elsewhere. His labors closed in 1853. He after various vicissitudes, settled in San Francisco being connected with Chinese work there, and died there several years ago.

Rev. ELISHA BUDD DEMILLE was ordained pastor at Amherst in 1853. He came of a literary family—his brother, James DeMille winning a good place among the scholars of the day, being also a voluminous author in the lighter

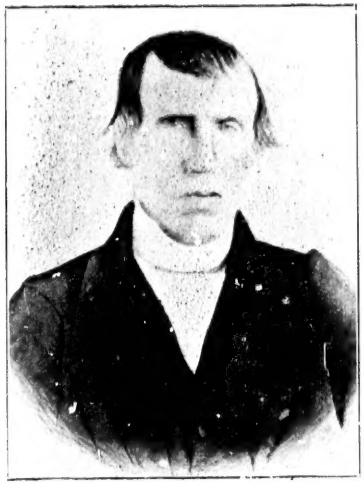
literature. E. B. had studied three years at Acadia, had graduated at Brown University after one years' residence ; and spent two years in exclusively theological studies at Newton Centre, Mass. besides supplementing his studies by travel in Europe. His preaching was of a high order, and the church was considerably enlarged ; but after three years service he had the misfortune to lose his wife and child. (He had married a daughter of Lewis Johnston, M. D., of Wolfville.) His sorrows weighed upon him, and his health giving way, he left at the close of his fourth year. During this pastorate the church purchased from Wm. DeWolfe for £400, or $1600, a lot of two acres, with dwelling house and barn, for the residence of the minister. The house served its purpose until 1881, when a new parsonage having been built upon the premises the old one was sold. Roads through the property, and another sale of a part of a lot, have somewhat reduced the original estate, but it is still a handsome property, and has greatly increased in value. Mr. DeMille died in St. John in 1863, where he had built up a strong interest which took form in Leinster St. Church. During the interval between pastorates, Rev. D. McKeen and John Miller were partial supplies.

From 1857 to 1861, REV. JAMES EDWARD BALCOM was pastor. He had studied at Acadia College, and was a respectable preacher, and a wise leader. He also had a Missionary genius, visiting adjacent districts, and being the means of great blessing. The church was considerably increased. During his ministry the pastors salary was raised from $400. to $500 : also board or residence was provided. Mr. B. was agent of Acadia College, and pastor of one or two churches, but died in middle life at Hantsport.

Rev. G. F. MILES succeeded to the pastorate in 1862, retaining it till 1867—when he gave up the charge through ill health. Mr. M. was a son of thunder, of fine presence, and social in his manners. During his ministry a powerful work of grace was carried forward, and many were added to the church. Mr. M. died in Amherst Feb. 19, 1890, aged 68.

The present incumbent Rev. D. A. SEELE settled here in 1867. He has been constantly at work with the exception of brief vacations, for needed rest. The church has grown numerically, and the gifts and graces of the members have been developed. Under his ministry there have been marked periods of revival ; in 1868, when 33 were added ; in 1874, 23 ; in 1876, 54 ; in 1880, (Rev. W. George, assisting) 21 ; in

Rev. Charles Tupper,
The first pastor of the church.



Rev. Samuel McCully,
One of the ministers of the church.

1883, D. L. Chubbuck assisting, 87 ; in 1883, 29 ; in 1886, 26 ; in 1889, (Rev. E. M. Saunders D. D., assisting) 82. But there have also been times, not quite so marked, when there has been a gracious influence pervading the congregation, resulting in many conversions. The benevolent spirit has been greatly developed. the congregation making a good show in our denominational reports, and a corresponding increase in all our home work. The pastor has made it one of the features of his ministry from the beginning to give special Biblical instruction to the young people. On occasion of the completion of twenty-five years of service by the present pastor, an address was presented, accompanied by a silver tea service, with handsome salver and one dozen silver teaspoons.

The church having several branches, assistant pastors have been engaged since 1872. The first was Rev. G. O. Gates, then a student, who spent three months with us. Since that time we have engaged the services for a longer or shorter period of many well-known brethren, among others are Rev. I. R. Skinner, J. I. DeWolfe, Wm. George, G. R. White, C. W. Corey, A. J. Kempton, J. H. McDonald, and H. G. Estabrook. Much of the efficiency of the different departments is due to these brethren.

Rev. Isaiah Wallace and Rev. D. G. McDonald have also assisted in holding special services.

THE MINISTERS who have been licensed from this church are Hibbert Black (deceased,) Rev. S. McC. Black, (Editor Messenger Visitor,) J. H. Pipes (deceased,) Rev. Absalom Powell, Rev. Walter S. Black, Rev. Charles A. Eaton, Rev. Geo. Lawson, and Geo. B. Cutten.

The church early laid hold of the SUNDAY SCHOOL ENTERPRISE, and there are now five schools meeting regularly, the largest of course at the centre, one at the Point, one at Salem, one at Warren, and one, the result of a volunteer movement in the South of the town. Among many devoted teachers, special mention must be made of Miss Lizzie Skimming, who conducted the infant class for seventeen years ; Mrs Augusta Harding, who retired after thirty years service ; and W. M. Read, who taught for twenty-five years ; M. D. Pride after filling the office of Superintendent for fifteen years, resigned, and was succeeded in 1894 by B. W. Ralston. Our children

are trained to dedicate their means to God—for the three quarters of 1895 they have contributed over and above their own working expenses, for Missions, Home and Foreign, say $100.

Women's Missionary Aid Society.

From 1870, the women of the congregation have been united for promoting the cause of Christ among the heathen under the name of the Woman's Mission Aid Society. At that time Mrs. W. F. Armstrong (nee Norris) filled with Missionary enthusiasm, proceeded extensively to organize these societies. Ours was the second thus formed. Of late years the Union has also raised monies for Home Missions. The amount raised during the year ending July 1894-5, was for Foreign work, $172.65; home work $99.00. The year before the total was $341.-47. Besides the pecuniary advantage of these Associations, much good comes, socially and spiritually to those who thus assemble to hear what our missionaries are doing and suffering, and to pray for the blessing of Heaven to rest upon the labors of His servants. Often

Christ Himself draws near
And makes the little band complete

The Society celebrated its 25th. anniversary in July last, with appropriate services.

Baptist Young People's Union.

Our history of course, cannot include all our doing as a church, but a line must be given to the B. Y. P. U. This is a Union of the young people for social and spiritual services, for hard study and for aggressive work. This is part of the large movement among the young of all denominations; but adapted to our own denominational needs. The strong point, so far, has been the line of sacred study pursued under Revs. J. H. McDonald, and H. G. Estabrook—study heartily pursued by the young people in all sections of the church. It has resulted in a good deal of honest work, and the results will be seen in the Baptists who come after us. Honorable recognition of our success has been three times awarded.

from the beginning to the present date are as follows :——
Thos. Embree, Thos. S. Black, Wm. Donkin, Wm. Logan, E. B. Cutten, W. Frieze Black, Cyrus Black, Samuel Taylor, Robt. McCully, Moses Lowe, Thos. Lusby, A. S. Blenkhorne, Robert Embree, Torry Bent, Jas. M. Layton, Thos. R. Black, George Christie, Wm. Read, M. D. Pride, Hugh Logan, D. F. Quigley.

The CLERK at this date is James Moffat, the TREASURERS, W. M. Read, and B. J. Lawson ; the ASSISTANT PASTOR for 1894-5 is Rev. H. G. Estabrook, A. B., who has rendered efficient service, especially in connection with the Sacred Literature course of the B. Y. P. Union.

PLACES OF MEETING.

The congregation at first worshipped in private houses, the old fathers preaching at Samuel Freeman's, Luther Lusby's and others, also at times in the old court house on Lawrence St. But in 1819 a movement was made to erect a meeting house, which resulted in the building which stood until 1894, on the site of the North end of the present stone church. "This site was kindly offered by Philip Freeman," (the price named in the deed, £15, being we presume only nominal.) The rules and regulations drawn up in the clear handwriting of Charles Baker Esq., then Registrar-of-deeds, that "the Baptist Society of Amherst have the appointment of trustees," and "that the said meeting house, when not occupied by the Baptist minister, shall be open and free to any denomination of ministers (*sic*) wishing to prevent none from "approaching the throne of grace, and mercy for forgiveness and salvation." The fourth regulation is "that each subscription of above five pounds be paid in money, butter, or neat stock, the stock to be at the valuation of men chosen by the parties ; if under five pounds, to be paid in money or butter ; provided that any person may take a job or contract for materials or labor, with the trustees, for a part or the whole or their subscription." The conclusion is worth copying, as shewing the social state of things at that day ;

"We therefore, whose names are hereto subscribed, feeling the necessity of a house being set apart for the worship of God in this township, and willing to do our part on removing the inconvenience of being without a house of public worship in the centre of the said Township of Amherst, for the furtherance of so laudable a work, approving and agreeing to the above regulation do severally promise to pay to the trustees, viz., Wm. Freeman, T. S. Black, Samuel Freeman, George Revell, and Luther Lusby, the survivor, or survivors" etc.

Then follows the list of names, and the amounts over against their names. The signatures of the forefathers are here, embracing the names of all the families in the surrounding township. It is worthy of mention that with one or two exceptions, the names are still in the county. Here is the record in fading characters of their zeal for God, of their determination to secure a respectable place of worship, and of their benevolent spirit.

In the Deed of Trust for this first meeting house there is made the proviso that four Trustees shall be appointed by other Protestants, and that each set of Trustees is to look out for certain rights and privileges; and the Deed has the signature affixed of ten persons. The additional names are :—Thomas Embree, William Donkin, Thomas Logan, and Rufus Freeman ; the others being the above mentioned.

There is a note just before the witnesses names, as follows :——

Note, "It is agreed upon before signing that neither denomination shall disturb the other during their Association. The Baptists within mentioned to be considered those of the Calvinist Baptists."

"Signed and sealed in presence of

Charles Baker,
Patrick Sullivan."

We give this note verbatim. The word "Association" is evidently not intended for the Baptist use of the word, but the more general meaning of assembling.

Mr. J. A. Black in the Amherst Gazette, describes this first building, thus :

"It was a box-like structure, 42 ft. square, with double rows of ordinary windows like a 2-story residence, except that

THE ABOVE

is from a snap shot by Kodak of the first meeting house, built in 1819, the home of the Baptist Church for fourty-four years.

BELOW

is the second House, built in 1863, and vacated 1894.

the lower tier had segment tops. The first pulpit was of the stilted sort in vogue in those days. The cost of the building was about $2000. In this building, consisting of a single room, were conducted all the services of the church and Sunday School—for in the course of years, as other denominations provided places of worship, it came into the hands of the Baptists exclusively—until 1863, when its successor was erected on an adjacent portion of the same site."

The same gentleman gives the following brief outline of

THE SECOND BUILDING.

"This was considered a quite pretentious edifice as church architecture went, in our N. S. villages, 32 years ago. It was in plain rectangular form, 80x45, with basement vestry 40 ft. square, and gloried in a tower and spire which reached an altitude of 130 ft. from the ground. This church was dedicated June 7th., 1863. It cost $8,000, and seated 600." The spire, which was injuring the building, was taken down in 1874.

There was a good pipe organ, which, with ascending seats for the choir, was at the back of the preacher. Mr. J. A. Black, being the presiding genius for 30 years. There was a permanent reading desk about four feet wide, on which were placed lamps on either side of the Book. At the opposite end was a crescent shaped gallery. The windows had each the figure of a dove descending. There were many notable gatherings during the thirty years this building was occupied, Associations, and one regular Convention, but there was an assemblage of historical interest, a special session of Convention, the only one ever held by the Denomination in the Maritime Provinces. The occasion was owing to a crisis in our Foreign Mission work. The Baptists of the lower Provinces had, in 1871 inaugurated an Independent mission to the heathen. They were previously for many years engaged in this work, under the auspices of the American Baptist Missionary Union, whose headquarters are in Boston. But it had been determined to found a mission of our own ; to this end missionaries had been appointed, but it took some three years and a good deal of our means, to locate this mission. Several brethren explored Siam, looking for a large tribe of Karens, to some of which people in Burmah we had contributed for years. These brethren reported that these Karens could not be found in such numbers as to warrant us in placing our forces among them in Siam. The Foreign Mission Board, as well as the Missionaries, were in perplexity ; there were several courses

opening to us ; one party desired to locate in Siam, and to endeavour to convert the Siamese ; another party thought it would be better to continue where we had spent so much strength already, in Burmah ; and a third party strongly urged, (the Baptists of these Provinces to unite with the Baptists of Ontario in prosecuting their operations among the Teloogoos in British India. Judge McCully, the President of the Convention (a native of Amherst, and a former member of this church,) with the advice of other brethren called a special session of Convention to meet with the Amherst church, on May 12th, 1875. To this appointed a large and representative gathering appeared. There were the venerable men bending under the burden of advanced years, Rev. Dr. Cramp, Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D. and Dr. Spurden. Justice McCully, still bluff and hearty, though growing old. At the head of the brethren in secular life were Hon. Dr Parker, always to the front in our assemblage and Stephen Selden, Esq., Editor of the MESSENGER, Hon. A. McL. Seeley, Rev. W. P. Everett, the Secretary of the Foreign Board, and other well-known brethren from New Brunswick. The younger men came in force, R. M. King and Rev. W. H. Warren being joint Secretaries. The gravity of the occasion was seen in every countenance. Rev. J. L. Campbell, Secretary of the O. and Q. Baptist Foreign Mission Society, came to consult in behalf of his brethren. After discussing the matter from Wednesday at 4 p. m. until Friday at noon, it was decided that our missionaries be instructed to occupy a part of the Teloogoo field, acting in harmony with our brethren in Ontario and Quebec. This was accordingly adopted as the Foreign Mission Policy of the Body ; and it has maintained a large staff in India from that day.

MORE ROOM DESIRABLE.

For years, the Pastor and active members had a desire for enlarged accommodation. Many conferences were held upon the subject. We thought of purchasing land at the back of the meeting house, but this was not feasible. Finally, (we quote Mr. J. Alb't Black.)

"It was decided to erect a substantial structure worthy of the body and supplied with all modern facilities for carrying on its work. Accordingly, plans were obtained from different architects in Canada and the U. States, and a subscription list

opened. With quarries of splendid red sandstone within one and a half miles, obtainable at $2. a ton, while in Toronto the price is $16, little consideration was required to decide in favor of this material. The plans admirably designed by Harry H. Mott, St. John, were accepted, and the result is the splendid pile shown in engraving as THE PRESENT EDIFICE. The first sod was turned on the 8th. May, 1894, by Mrs. Sarah McCully, Mrs. N. A. Rhodes and Mrs. G. B. Smith, each of whom has subscribed $500 to the building fund.

THE EXTERIOR,

it will be seen, presents a most imposing appearance, and despite the very large ground area and only moderate altitude, has been so judiciously treated by the architect as to present admirable proportions from all points of view. The main dimensions are: Length 122 ft.; average width 70 ft.; heights of two front towers to top of finials 100 and 75 ft. respectively; from ground to apex of roof 60 ft. The street facade, with its pretty turreted towers, its finely proportioned gable, its magnificent central window, and its three spacious portals with their red granite columns and carved capitals, forms an architectural picture of striking beauty and harmony. The end elevation shown towards Victoria Square, and the square tower rising from the roof at the west angle, with the judicious placing of the windows, also gives the building an attractive appearance from another point of view. The masonry of the walls is random-course, rock-face, ashler-jointed, set in English cement, and is of the most solid construction. It is relieved by tooled cornices and door finish. The friezes of upper cornices are handsomely carved in bas-relief. The polished columns of N. B. red granite which adorn the portals have handsomely carved capitals of sandstone. Four of these columns are at the main entrance, and two at each of the others. These have been furnished by C. E. Freeman, left of vestry entrance, C. E. Waite of Boston, C. E., the right hand column, two children of Samuel Freeman, right main entrance, the left by H. Clair Mott; the out side pillars by Rev. Chas. A. Eaton. The pillars at the northern entrance, have been furnished, the right by Bessie Curry, the left by Edgar N. Rhodes. Several of the windows are being supplied for memorial purposes, by Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., (in memory of his father, Rev. Dr. Tupper), T. R. Black, N. A. Rhodes, G. B. Smith. The headings of the lower windows in upper part of towers are of neat design.

People who are averse to climbing into church or lowering themselves into basement vestries will not have these excuses for absenting themselves from the new edifice, the access to which is perfect, and there is no reason why an ordinary congregation cannot make its exit in three minutes, doors all opening outwards.

THE INTERIOR.

The vestry was opened for service, March 10, 1895. It is on a level with the main audience room of the church, with which it will be connected by folding doors, to admit of its serving as an annex in case of very large congregations. It occupies the north-western extremity of the building, with its principal windows looking upon Victoria Square. The entrance is at the southern angle of the building, through a corridor 9 ft. wide containing staircase to second story. On the main floor are: Lecture room, 40x37 (the size of Y. M. C. A. hall), and two class-rooms at rear, each 23x15, with wide rising doors by which connection may be made with the lecture-room in case of large meetings. There is a movable platform, 6x8. The ceilings are 16 ft. high, finished in nine deep panels in whitewood, varnished. The walls are wainscoted in birch. Windows of diamond quarry glass, with the quatrefoils enclosed by ornate tracery at their heads in a delicate heliotrope. The old poem in which the sexton is plaintively besought to provide a few whiffs of fresh air will have no application here, as in addition to the ventilating shafts for operating the Smead System, there are numerous hinged panes above which may be opened at will. The doors throughout are of B. Columbia red cedar. The corridor, whose ceiling is also panelled in white-wood, and each alternate width of its birch wainscoting has its surface conceaved, presents a novel and pleasing effect.

Easy staircases at front and rear lead to the second story of the vestry, where a spacious corridor across the whole building gives access to additional rooms for the Sunday School work connected with the church, the extent of which is indicated by its membership roll of 450, with 30 officers and teachers. There are two rooms 23x15 each, one 30x11, one 30x15½, and library room 30x9. Here is also a gem of a room 12 ft. in diameter, in the circular tower over the main entrance (the central door in the engraving.) It is lighted by four windows with outlook upon Victoria Street. The ceiling on this flat has a height of 12½ ft. and is plastered. The wainscoting is in Cumberland ash. The floor is well deafened with mortar.

One of the Robb Engineering Co's 35-horse power Economic boilers in the basement supplies the steam by which the building is heated, and the Canada Electric Co. has its lamps distributed throughout the building.

THE MAIN AUDIENCE ROOM

of the church is reached by the central and eastern entrances, the latter giving ready access also to the pulpit, choir, and the rooms set apart for pastor, choir, robing-rooms for baptismal candidates, and lavatories, all of which are in the north eastern portion of the edifice. The pastoral room, which occupies the tower space over the eastern entrance, has a beautiful location.

The main audience room, 60 ft. square, with a height at some points of 37½ ft., is unbroken by balconies. The great

REV. J. H. MACDONALD,
Assistant Pastor.

REV. D. A. STEELE, D. D.
Pastor 1867—1895.

REV. H. G. ESTABROOK,
Assistant Pastor.

expanse of ceiling, which is gable-roofed, and finished in panelling, is relieved by many angles. A striking feature of the interior will be the magnificent windows which will occupy a central position in either side-wall, each, being 22½x12 ft. The central one fronting the street, is called the Deacon's window, from the fact that the Deacons of the church have placed it there. These are flanked on either side by windows 14½x21½, and these by others, 11½x21½. From the platform to the rear of the auditorium the floor will incline upwards two feet. The seats, which will be in semi-circles, will be in direct contrast to the perpendicular-backed ones of old times, and instead of furnishing torture to overcome one's spirit of devotion, will provide a natural attitude which will contribute to the receptiveness of the listener. The seats and backs are of poplar, shaped, and the ends handsomely finished in quartered oak. The walls will be wainscoted in birch. The pulpit platform will have an elevation of 3 ft., and its front will be finished in tracery in cherry. The choir and organ loft just in rear of this will be 2 ft. higher, and have a floor space 24x15. Access to the rooms separated by the organ-loft is obtained by a passage under the same. In the partition wall at the right of the minister is the baptistry.

The seating capacity will be: Church auditorium 700; lecture-room 250; annexes 150; total 1100 which may be increased in emergencies by 200. The audience room is illuminated by one central electrolier, and a smaller one above the choir.

THE BASEMENT

is excavated throughout to a depth of 10 ft. It contains a dining room 23x14, kitchen, and boiler, and fuel rooms. Others may be added as required.

GENERAL NOTES.

The building committee consists of J. Avard Black, G. B. Smith, M. D. Pride, N. A. Rhodes, and the church trustees. The unusual course of appointing a chief officer of the contracting company on this committee shows the confidence reposed in Mr. Rhodes, while the results fully justify the course taken, as he has manifested a readiness to have everything done to ensure the acme of completeness.

The east corner stone was laid July 6th, 1894, with appropriate ceremony, by Miss Annie Hickman, assisted by Contractor Rhodes, Deacons T. R. Black and W. M. Read (treasurer) and accompanied by services, conducted by Rev. Dr. Steele, assisted by Rev's J. H. McDonald, and S. McC. Black, and the choir.

The contract price, exclusive of seating and heating apparatus is $27,595. The builders were lately given the seating contract at $1500

The quantity of stone used is 2500 tons, and of brick 200M. It will be seen that, other things being equal, the differing cost of stone here and in Toronto would make the same building cost there $62,595. Amherst therefore, is most fortunate in having building stone of the best quality within easy reach, and at the price of brick.

Pastor and congregation have worked together harmoniously for the desideratum aimed at, thorough up-to-date equipment for church work. Very little effort at ornamentation has been made, the purpose being to have a substantial, commodious, and convenient house of worship. Outside of the main essential—a liberal subscription list—the persistent yet judicious efforts of Pastor Steele must be awarded the greatest credit for bringing about the undertaking. The subscribers of $200 and upwards are :

T. R. Black	$1500	Charles Christie	$500	J. S. Hickman	$250
N. A. Rhodes	1500	Jesse Harding	500	T. S. Rogers	250
James Moffat	1000	C. T. Hillson	500	A. D. Taylor	250
M. D. Pride	1000	Mrs. Sarah McCully	500	W. M. Read	200
G. B. Smith	1000	Mrs. N. A. Rhodes	500	D. W. Douglas	200
Mayor Nat Curry	750	Mrs. G. B. Smith	500	A. M. Freeman	200
Mark Curry	600	Sir Charles Tupper	500	Miss Annie Hickman	200
G. W. Christie	600	Dr. C. O. Tupper	350	Seaman Lowe	200
Amherst B. Y. P. U.	500	J. Alex Christie	300	Sheriff Logan	200
R. E. Black	500	H. M. Coates	300	Miss Elizabeth Page	200
Torry Bent	500	James Curry	250	Frank Page	200
J. Avard Black	500	Samuel Freeman	250		

Without smaller sums this makes a total of $16,750.

The members of the building committee have been unceasing in their attentions, and they, the contractors, and architect have worked together harmoniously, all apparently with the purpose of doing the most ample justice.

The stone was supplied by the Amherst Red Sandstone Co, the boiler by the Robb Engineering Co., the piping, radiators, etc., by S. L. Lawson & Co., who also did the fitting of same ; the hardware which is of the latest design for churches, and in keeping with the woodwork, was specially imported by Douglas & Co. ; the wiring and electric lamps are supplied by our Canada Electric Co., and the work done under supervision of George Hillcoat, its manager.

While Mr. Rhodes maintained a general supervisisn of the work, E. J. Horn was foren.. a of the masonary, A. S. Curry of carpentry. The plastering is by Foster Bros. The work throug'out is of that high character for w'ich Rhodes, Curry & Co., have won a reputation.

THE MEMORIAL WINDOWS.

On entering the main building by the large tower, as we look to the right, the beautiful window erected by Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., to his father, Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D., meets the eye. The apostle Matthew is represented as holding the gospel Book, and above, an angel with a scroll, "Book of the generation of Jesus Christ." It is a chaste production, and significant of the character and labors of the first pastor of the church. (It is to be hoped that some friends will supply a memorial of the remaining deceased pastors, John Francis, E. B. DeMille, James, E. Balcom, and G. F. Miles. The church should not allow the names of her faithful servants to pass into oblivion.

The second window is also of a memorial character, erected by Amelia Embree Black, to the memory of her husband, father, mother and sister. A beautifully draped figure is represented as standing with sword on the ground with the appropriate legend, "I have fought the good fight."

The large and highly ornamental window in the centre of the front wall is called "The Deacon's Wi..dow." It contains the names of six of the Deacons of the church, who have subscribed to its erection, M. Lowe, A. T. Bent, T. R. Black, M. D. Pride, Wm. Read, G. W. Christie. All but one are living, Moses Lowe, Esq., who had that characteristic of the office, "great boldness in the faith."

The smaller light next to this is also an ornamental window, the subject being the Bible and the Sword, and the inscription, "The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God," presented by G. B. Smith.

The window nearest the east door is placed by N. A. Rhodes, to the memory of his only daughter. On the opposite side, the large window in the centre is also an ornamental window, shedding a softened light. It contains certain religious symbols which will interpret themselves. Reading them from left to right, we have Alpha

and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, representing our Lord Jesus Christ. Between these is the Altar of Sacrifice, the first symbol of worship, "Abel offering the more excellent sacrifice;" next the ark fitting representative of the Church of God, "wherein few, that is eight souls, were saved by water." The next picture is that of the lyre or harp, signifying praise; and lastly, the lamp of incense, meaning prayer. This window is the gift of W. A. Marsh, Esq., the son of Rev. David Marsh, formerly pastor of the Baptist Church in the city of Quebec.

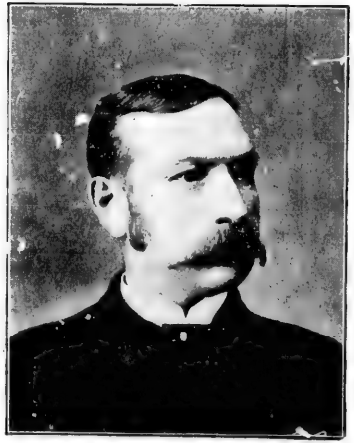
THE PULPIT FURNITURE

has been manufactured by the Rhodes Curry & Co. (limited) from polished oak, without upholstery, yet like all the seating etc. of the church, handsome and comfortable. It is the gift of Eben Pelton and others. The communion table is the gift of Mrs. W. F. James (nee Fowler) of Bermuda, and others of the Fowler family. For the present, the congregation will dispense with an organ, instrumental music being supplied by a Piano, and a large choir. The four Silver Collection Plates were presented by Mrs. W. M. Read, and the large Mat at the main entrance was sent by Mrs. Waite of Boston.

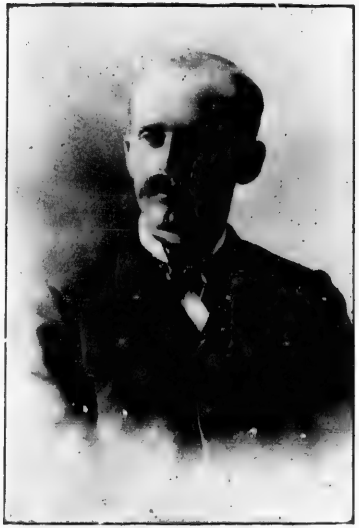
The opening services will take place on September 1, 1895, when the Rev. A. W. Sawyer D. D., L.L. D., President of Acadia University, will preach the sermon of Dedication. Rev. Geo. O. Gates, A. M., Pastor of Germain St. church, St. John, N. B., the first of our assistants, will preach the evening sermon. Rev J. H. McDonald, late assistant pastor, has written an approriate hymn for the dedication services.

The story of eighty-five years has been only hinted at in the foregoing notes. They are the merest indications of struggle and advancement. The full account is recorded elsewhere. Bye-and-bye we shall be called upon to shew what part each one took in the up building of Zion.

Now, O Lord, Let thine eyes be opened and let thine ears be attent to the prayer that is offered up in this place.



N. A. RHODES,
Rhodes Curry & Co., Ltd.



H. H. MOTT,
Architect, St. John, N. B.

NAT. CURRY,
Rhodes Curry & Co., Ltd,
MAYOR OF AMHERST

• • • HISTORICAL NOTES • • •

CONCERNING THE

Town of Amherst, Nova Scotia

BY REV. D. A. STEELE, D. D.,
PASTOR OF AMHERST BAPTIST CHURCH.

1895.

Introductory Note.

The following pages do not pretend to be anything more than notes on the History of Amherst. They have been thrown together in a hurry, Doubtless there are mistakes, and important events may have been overlooked. The compiler believes the saying, that a historian is seen to best advantage, when he does not appear. He has endeavoured to repress his own sentiments, and to give the bare facts. There are materials lying about for a more complete history of this district and its surroundings —one of the most interesting in the Maritimes—which may yet be gathered and placed in a more worthy form before those who delight in historical inquiry.

Our thanks are due to Cyrus Black, Esq. now of Boston, for many intesesting facts ; to J. Albert Black, Esq., for files of THE AMHERST GAZETTE ; to John Hamilton, C. E., for a tracing of an old "Map of the Basin of Chignecto and its environs from a French draught, with the surveys of 1775, by Capt. Lewis ;" to Judge Morse for information as to localities, etc. ; to Hon. Senator Dickey, Jas. L. Purdy, Esq., and others, and to E. J. Lay, Esq., for valuable notes on education since the adoption of the modern school system.

• • • HISTORICAL NOTES • • •

Town of Amherst, Nova Scotia.

The town of AMHERST, Nova Scotia, received its name from Jeffrey, Lord Amherst, who was a notable figure in the conquest of Canada, being in command at the second seige of Louisburg, 1758, and also of Montreal, 1760.

According to map and sureveys of 1755, there were three small settlements on the line of the present road following the marsh, occupied by the French.

First, the village of Wehekage, (the Mic Mac name of the North-west side, the south-east side of the Point being Sauquodebooch). At the lower part of Amherst Point, is still pointed out the site of the French church, and one of the stones of the mill may still be seen on I. De Mill Forrest's farm. There were also hamlets at or near the road leading to Sharp's creek. The second village, La Butt, was situated near the present town of Amherst.

LA BUTT

is significantly marked "burnt", probably by order of the Abbe Le Loutre. The third is called La Planche, also marked "burnt" which seems to have been two miles north-east, at the crossing to Fort Lawrence, not as now at Amherst, but in the neighborhood of John Embree's. The village extended south-west, probably as far as Maynard Freeman's. Remains of this road, we think, may be traced. Those versed in such matters say it strikes a road over Black Point(called the Milk Maid's path of late years) on through to Chapman's and Tren-

holm's farms, to near Mount Whately, crossing the Missiquash at Pont Buot, which we take to mean, Buot's Bridge, which we think should not be confounded with Point de Bute—the latter meaning "the Point of the Butte," or highland between the marshes.

The stream which wends its way through the marsh in front of the town, is called Mascoudugain, or La Planche, the former the Mic Mac, the latter the French appellation, meaning "the plank," or board, the earliest settlers would lay on the mud, and across the river at low water.

The Indian names are given on this map, Fort Lawrence being Mesagusepe; Napan, Macan, and Mineudie being nearly the same as at present. These latter are given by Dr. Rand as Mic Mac.

The ridge on which lies Amherst has no distinctive Indian name.

The present town is situated at the head of the Bay of Fundy, on the northern side, half way between Halifax and St. John, N. B., about one hundred and forty miles from each place.

It is built upon a ridge of land overlooking the marshes, and the waters of Cumberland Basin. These marshes are composed of alluvial deposit, brought in by the turbulent tides of the Bay which run very swiftly, and rise to a great height. Long dikes of earth shut out the waters. It is supposed that there has been, in comparatively modern times, either a subsidence of the land, or a break of some natural barrier in the Bay, on either of which suppositions, the waters would rush in, and silt up the lands lying beneath the tide. Sir William Dawson states these theories, but inclines to the view that a "subsidence had taken place.... and to a depth of about forty feet." The value of these fertile plains can hardly be over rated. They must always maintain a large agricultural community, and it is to them that our town owes its existence. The region round about is replete with interest, because of the important events of former times. A few miles away, and in full view are the remains of the fortress of Beau Sejour, now Fort Cumberland. Nearer is the position where the British built their opposing Fort Lawrence. The town looks out on territory, rich and beautiful, won by conquest from our old foes. The lilies of King Louis, a century and a half ago, waved a welcome to friends, and a warning to the foes of La belle France. The industrious Acadians tilled the farms of Beaubassin, and felt secure. But the torch of war burned their homes, and scattered them far and wide.

Instead of the frowning summits of Fort Lawrence, we see from our doors the magnificent work of the civil engineer, in the dock, Machinery, and buildings connected with the Ship Railway.

Originally, the township of Amherst was granted to forty two families, and there was given to each a wood lot, a farm lot, and a marsh lot. But the town was originally laid off by British Engineers in 1760, a mile and a half to the South-west of the present site on the road to Parrsboro. The building lots and streets are now swallowed up in the farms of the Embrees and others. The parade-ground was laid off, but unused, the militia training on the highway near Wm. Embree's, until about 1835. There, too, the first cemetery was located, the general burying ground up to twenty years ago, when the cemetery on the Highlands was donated by the Hon. R. B. Dickey. On the same road, the Church of England also have a church-yard and cemetery, donated by Charles Baker, Esq. In this plot stood the church, which was removed to its present site in 1842, originally built of brick by George Revell. From various reasons, the centre came to be fixed at what what was known as "Amherst Corner." For nearly a century, the population was scattered between Dixon's Corner, two miles below the present Court House, and Morse's Corner, half a mile above. A Presbyterian Church stood for many years at the old grave-yard ; and among other things which showed that it was a seat of authority, a criminal by the name of Burk was hung there, about 1778, in the field between the burying ground and the Enoch Embree house. But the Court House was at River Philip, and the Custom House at Fort Lawrence, the incumbent being a Michael Gordon, appointed by the British Government.

The chief places of trade and merchandise were at Partridge Island, Parrsboro, and at Fort Lawrence, at Fort Cumberland, and afterward at Minudie. There were no shops or stores here, Titus Knapp doing a large business at "The Fort," to which all the surrounding country went.

Along the main road already indicated, lived the families who had settled at different times, the Dickeys, Dixons, Embrees, Roberts, Freemans, Fales, Bakers, Lusbys, Chapmans, Purdys, Bents, Morses, and others, all engaged in farming.

There were one or two humble hostelries, all-sufficient for the needs of the time. Dr. Elijah Purdy minister-

ed pills and potions, and acted as dentist, travelling long distances on horseback. There was also a Dr. Coghlan, an Irish doctor.

The law was lodged in the person of Charles Baker, who was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Haliburton points out that the first courts were composed, not of professional men, but of the best magistrates of the district. After this for several years, Jas. S. Morse was the only lawyer. He was repeatedly elected a member of the House of Assembly at Halifax.

Nearly eighty years ago, Alex Stewart was admitted an attorney. He was several times elected a member for the County, and finally became Master of the Rolls, dying in Halifax in 1865. Chas. H. Chandler was the High Sheriff, and was succeeded by his son Joshua. The old Sheriff, at elections, sat at his table with his clerk, and would call out to the voter, "Voter?" reply "Yes." Then, "Your name and residence?" These answered satisfactorily, then came the all important question; "for whom do you vote?" "Colonel Purdy and Major Roach," or "Alex. Stuart" or "Mr. McKim." Mr. McKim was a North of Ireland man, contested the county about 1820, and died on the hustings in Amherst. Men were voting for him after he was dead, as the elections were then held, not simultaneously as at present, but as follows: First at Amherst for a few days, then two days at River Philip, then four days at Wallace, then again at Amherst six days. This required three weeks. Thus an election was a much more serious thing than now, involving so much time, and all the evils resulting from the increased expenditure.

The Court House grounds, including Victoria Square, were deeded to Edward Barron, William Black, and Charles Baker, by the first William Freeman in A. D. 1788, in trust for the county, these gentlemen being prominent Justice of the Peace, and Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Baker was also Registrar of Deeds. It is on record that Mr. Freeman made a present of this to the county. An item of interest connected with Mr. Freeman, and showing the scarcity of clergymen in those days, is preserved by one of his descendants viz., an old record of his marriage:

William Freeman and Jerusha Yeomans both of Amherst, were married, after lawful publication, by Benoni

Danks, one of His Majesty's Justices of the peace, December 5th, 1765. They had thirteen children, whose descendants are now found in many of the principal families of the County.

The stores eighty years ago were kept by Thos. L. Dixon, William Dickey, C. H. Chandler, and William White. There our fathers, as they trotted to the store on horse back, or in the "one hoss shay," saw the usual fit-out the hogshead of molasses, the cask of sugar, the boxes of tea, tobacco, and indigo, the latter indispensable for coloring the homespun cloth. Rum, gin, and brandy, then entered into the regular sales, and the head of the household returned with a moderate quantity of all these articles.

In those days the dry goods department was limited. "There were no stockings", says Cyrus Black in Amherst seventy years ago, as the women knit all that were used. The people made linen, and our gray cotton was not a commercial commodity then. The young people, male and female, wore home manufactures until they were nearly grown, when the girls would be indulged in a cotton dress. The young man of the period must have a broadcloth dress coat. Frock coats were not known". Mr. Black continues - "The surplus of the farmers was so limited that they could not afford to buy a quantity of goods. Flour was frequently $12.00 a barrel and on one occasion rose to $20.00. Tea used to bring in $2.00 a pound, sugar 12 cents per lb.

A schooner made a trip Spring and Fall in which were brought all the goods for the season. The ordinary roads were so bad that a wheeled vehicle could scarcely have travelled. Man and wife rode on horseback, the good lady sitting on a pillion, behind her liege lord. Ship building to a limited extent was attempted. James Page built a schooner near the site of Robb's Foundry. She was hauled by oxen to the river, all the ox teams from Fort Lawrence being engaged, skids and rollers of spruce trees being used for this precursor of the Ship Railway. The school houses were two in number, the one opposite the Presbyterian meeting house already mentioned, and the other near the present residence of C. H. Bent.

The Royal mail was a small affair in those days. Sixty-five years ago it came in Tommy Atkinson's gig, previously it was easily carried on Wooden's horse. The first Postmaster was Silas H. Morse, who was also

Prothonotary ; he kept the papers and correspondence in his front room, on the site of the house now owned by Harvey Pipe. Parties would stroll in and pick out their own letters, etc. John W. Smith, an English saddler, was the second to hold the office. He lived where his son Charles W. Smith now resides. Then there was a long incumbency of the Chipman family—John Allen Chipman, then the widow and her sons, at the store now occupied by James Brown. Thereafter it was moved to a building next door to the Bank of Nova Scotia. Finally, it found a permanent location in the stone building of the Dominion Government, where Amos Purdy has charge of Her Majesty's mails. Here, there are now an average of fifteen mails daily inward, and the same number outward ; private boxes, money order department, and all the modern improvements.

THE CHANGING SCENE.

The traveller in the early part of the century, as he surveyed the marshes in the autumn, would be reminded of the encampment of a great army, when he looked out upon the innumerable stacks of hay ; for the many barns which now dot the landscape had not then come into use. The general appearance of the locality has changed, and the usages of our fathers have disappeared before the invasion of modern civilization.

There were no stoves in those days : The houses were built with one huge chimney in the middle, with three fire places on the lower flat, and one or two on the second flat. This meant work for the wood-choppers, for coal had not then come into use. Wood was plenty and cheap, spruce wood was not thought worth the hauling. The best hardwood was hauled in eight foot lengths, and cut in three for the main fire place. In the kitchen fire-place was a crane, on which to hang the pots, ovens, and kettle. In these old-fashioned houses, life went on a little slowly perhaps ; but the people enjoyed themselves quite as well as their descendants. Old men tell us of the great chopping and hauling frolics. If a piece of woods was to be cut, or a building removed, the owner had but to give the intimation, and all the oxen and teamsters of the country for miles would be ready to "hitch on." There would often be a quilting arranged for the same day, at the same place, and in the evening when the

choppers came in the girls would lay aside the quilting frames, and a big spread on the tables would be the scene of much festivity. Mr. Black says, "there was a jolly good time."

Strange as it may seem, this all took place right around us. Our grandfathers raised two or three ridges of flax. Our grandmothers spun it on the little wheel, and then wove it into linen for family use. A piece of this work is now before the writer, it having been in use as sheet or towel for nearly sixty years.

Mr. Black says there were at the time (reckoning back seventy years from 1886,) but thirty houses between Dixon's Corner to the mill near J. A. Embrees, —a distance of 4½ miles. In the mile and a half between Morse's and Embree's were the farms of Richard Black, William Freeman, Thos S. Black, and Samuel Holstead.

An English bricklayer, George Revell, sojourned here for some years, and built many brick houses here, and in the surrounding country. The brick part of the Bank of Nova Scotia is one that still remains, being erected by Dr. John Carritt, about 1822. Another is the homestead of Martin Chapman, Esq., Fort Lawrence. Several of these have been torn down down of late years, and structures of wood erected in their stead. Mr. Revell owned the site of Messrs Christie's factory, where he built a flour and saw mill. He built Christ Church at the Episcopalian burying ground. In addition to the thirty dwellings, spoken of as being on the main road, there are some others, notably John Ward's, a Yorkshire man, who lived in a brick house corner of Spring and Albion Streets, part of the MacDonald estate. The old O'Donnell house, still standing on corner of Church and Prince Arthur St., built by a man known as English Baker, about 70 years ago, then sold by Mr. Crabb to Samuel O'Donnell, now owned by Mr. Dowlin; and the Fullers and Donkins on the Cobequid road, also one we have not yet mentioned, the old Joshua Freeman house, bought by Wm. Sharp, father of Mrs. Robt. Sharp, which was built partly of logs, and stood where John Elderkin now resides. Robert Sharp, the first, also built on the site of the Morley Pike place, and from him Sharp's Creek received its name.

When forty-five years ago, the Hon. R. B. Dickey built his present residence on the hill, the road leading to it, now Church St., ran through a swamp, and a large pond lay near the middle of it, known as Johnny Ward's Pond. Mr. D. extended the road to his place. This road was afterwards prolonged, and in 1867 connected

with the Halifax road near Gourley's in Salem. As late as 35 years ago, a pond of water lay on the site of the store North of the Amherst Hotel, and another frog pond opposite the Baptist Parsonage on Crescent Ave. has only been built over quite recently.

MECHANICS AND ARTIZANS.

The mechanics of the day were few. Two forges were owned, but they were rather appurtenances than regular business. One was owned by John Bent, the other by Thos. Chapman (adjutant Chapman.) Moses Seaman mended and made the tubs and buckets ; the tailors and shoemakers were itinerants, making such garments and shoes as people did not choose to attempt, as most of all this was done at home. The fashionable clothes came afterward ; the first shop being that of Edward O'Brien and John Jordan in the house now occupied by Frank Wilson, at Baker's Brook, in 1824. Mr. O'Brien continued his business in the long house three doors Eastward. The carpenters were Samuel Gourley, who lived in the Blenkhorne place, Charles Curtis, and Hiram Ferguson. The latter built and occupied the Hotel known as Coffee's on the site of Black's Block. This building was removed by T. R. Black, to the back of the property, and made into tenements. The rude agricultural implements of the time were home made. The hay and manure forks, hoes, axes, and fire-irons, were manufactured by the blacksmith. Hayrakes and brooms were home made, and scythe-snaths were made from nature's crooked sticks.

GRADUAL PROGRESS.

During all this time, Amherst grew steadily. From the large and fertile country surrounding, the trade gradually drew to this centre. Stores of a more pretentious character gradually superseded the old plain ones. Rufus Freeman built and occupied for a short time, when he died young, a store which was afterwards known as Lamy's Hotel (burnt 1893,) near the site of the new property of Messrs. Steele and Rhodes. W. M. Bent did a

large businesss, and was very successful, at corner of Rupert Street. R. K. Smith did a general business on the corner where the Presbyterian Church now stands. James Page was merchant, ship builder, and farmer, and did more than any one of his time to improve the stock of horses and cattle.

J. B. Kerr, and afterward Atcheson Moffat did business between Baker's and Lusby's Brooks. Mr. Moffat however, saw the tendency of the times, and built a handsome store on the corner of Church and Victoria Streets—afterwards burnt, with the block attached, (1887) and re-built of brick by Mr. Moffat.

In the papers for 1843 is the card of Charles Tupper, M. D., Edin., who offers his professional services to the inhabitants of Amherst and vicinity.

Jonathan McCully and R. B. Dickey were then young men, battling in the old Court House. Things were changing. Responsible government was being fought out. Railroads were being talked of, and written up. The improved machinery was coming into vogue. The electric telegraph flashed its messages through sleeping hamlets, the sewing machine began its useful clatter, the clang of the new mower was heard on the marshes, and the thousand and one signs of the new era were seen apace. It is true, in regard to towns, as of all mundane things, that

The old order changeth, yielding place to new.

MAYOR NAT. CURRY

Modern Amherst

BY J. ALBERT BLACK.

In approaching Amherst from the west, one sees, on a gentle acclivity sloping from the marshy plain, a wide expanse of buildings, not too closely grouped, in wood, brick, and stone, dotted with the spires and turrets of churches, indicative of christianizing influences, and with those unmistakable evidences of industrial activity, the smoking chimneys of its factories. Acquaintance with the town soon discloses, in its public buildings and

private residences, its churches and mercantile establishments, its tidy streets and generous sidewalks, its good hotels and its general modern equipment for religious, educational, industrial, and social advancement, that here are to be found the spirit of enterprise, the elements of prosperity, and the foundations of solidity.

The Amherst of to-day contrasts strongly with that of thirty or forty years ago. The "Amherst Corner" of those days, with its plain, rectangular dwellings, a few village stores, a blacksmith, a shoemaker, and a tailor's shop, its severely plain churches and plainer school-house, has yielded to the progressive spirit and advanced civilization of the age, quickened by an enterprising and industrious people.

"The Corner" has become the centre of a live incorporated town numbering over 5000 people, with its mayor and corporation, its board of trade, and other essentials of good goverment and material advancement. Its newer residences are of modern types of architecture, and not a few magnificent in style and proportions. The business blocks, including several of brick and stone, vie with those of much larger and older towns, while all citizens feel a justifiable pride in the churches, Dominion and bank buildings, court house, and especially the academy building, for it is the outgrowth of popular sentiment in behalf of the education of the people. Instead of a school which one teacher, by judicious wielding of the birch, was able to manage, in a single room, thirty years ago, is one of eleven departments and twelve teachers, in a solid brick and stone structure, built at an expenditure of $35,000 and well equipped with modern appliances. There are, besides, two other public schools in the town. The number of pupils registered in all the public schools, last year, was 920. The tendency of the day to specialization has obliterated the village store which over the same counter dispensed hardware and handkerchiefs, molasses and millinery, brimstone and bombazine—indeed anything from a needle to an anvil—and now are to be found shops well stocked with goods of one or two departments.

That the business of the town rests on firm bases and is little subject to fluctuating influences beyond those marked by the general business barometer of the country, may readily be inferred from its natural position with relation to its agricultural surroundings. With Holmes we may aptly sing of Nature:

" O, gracious Mother, whose benighted breast
Wakes us to life, and lulls us all to rest ;
How thy sweet features, kind to every clime,
Mock with their smile the wrinkled front of Time."

The fact that several of the business houses were founded thirty, forty, and fifty years ago, by the present proprietors or their progenitors, may be cited in evidence of the solidity referred to, while it also emphazizes the character and business sagacity of the men who have achieved such a record. The registers of the commercial agencies show that the per-centage of failures in the town has been remarkably small. Some of the oldest business houses alluded to are those of James Moffat, Douglas & Co., Dunlap Bros & Co., Robb Engineering Co., and the volume of trade in these and some newer establishments will compare well with that in similar concerns in our cities. The shops devoted to the sale of various kinds of merchandise number sixty-five ,and some knowledge of their architectural character is afforded by the statement that fourty-four of these have plate glass fronts.

When the union of the provinces had been consummated in 1867, removing the tariff barriers from between them and providing for an intercolonial highway through them, a new era of progress dawned upon the community. Then were recognized and employed to an increased degree the advantages possessed by Amherst for becoming an important industrial centre, with results which up to that period were considered beyond possible attainment. The caution and conservatism of the people have prevented undue experimenting with manufactures, with the result that those established are more noticeable for their extent than their number.

The pioneer manufacturing industry of any extent—the first iron foundry and machine shop in the town or county—was opened in 1865 by Alexander Robb. It was successfully conducted by him for several years, and afterwards, notwithstanding two serious fire losses, by his sons, who, under the title of the Robb Engineering Co., have expanded it to engine and boiler works. The company makes engines and boilers of the highest types, from 10 to 400-h. p., costing as high as $4000, and sends them to almost every part of Canada, some having gone as far west as New Westminister, B. C. 125 hands are employed, and the output per year has reached $150,000

The officers are: D. W. Robb, president and consulting engineer; F. B. Robb, sec'y-treas. and manager; A. G. Robb, sup't of engine department.

In 1867 was established the Amherst Boot & Shoe Co., with Robert McCully president, and E. S. Crafts manager. After the experimental stage had passed, the capital was increased and the management placed in the hands of M. D. Pride and a directorate composed of some of the most sagacious bnsiness men of the town. The industry has been one of gradual expansion, until last year's sales reached $420,000, and it had on its pay roll 225 names Mr. Pride still continues manager; Hon. H. Black is president; T. N. Campbell has been sec'y-treas. for many years; and the directors are: the president, manager, and Hon. A. R. Dickey, J. S. Hickman and J. R. Lamy.

N. A. Rhodes, Nat Curry, and Mark Curry opened a general wood-working establishment in 1877 as Rhodes Curry & Co., and after a time became building contractors. Despite the checks of two fires which swept away their factories and contents, they held on their way until their building contracts became very extensive, and they had erected some of the finest public buildings and residences in the four maritimes, and had also entered the Upper Provinces and the West Indies. Among these are: I. C. R. Passenger Station, St. John; City Hall, First Baptist Church, Queen Hotel, Halifax; Dominion Buildings, Amherst and Charlottetown; I. C. R. General Offices and Roundhouse, Moncton; Acadia College, Wolfville; Boston Marine Co's building, Yarmouth; Mr. Rhodes' and the Messrs Curry's residences, Amherst. In 1893 the company accepted a proposal to add the car-works industry then conducted at St. Johnby Harris& Co.,and became a joint stock concern. The very extensive buildings and yards now cover eight acres, and 350 persons are employed. 1200 freight and 15 passenger cars have already been built, some of them at a cost of $6500 each, and the yearly volume of business in all departments is about half a million dollars. The castings and forgings, including wheels, are done on the premises, as well as the woodwork, for which quantities of lumber are brought from British Columbia and other distant points. The officers of the company are: Nat Curry, president; N. A. Rhodes, vice-president; J. M. Curry, sec'y-treas.; J. C. Robertson, (St. John), consulting director; J. M. Townshend, T. R. Black, M. P. P., Charles Archibald (Halifax), directors.

Other important industries are : The casket, trunk, and woodworking factories of Christie Bros. & Co. ; Knight & Black's furnace and stove foundry ; C. J. Silliker, woodworking and building ; Taylor and Tennant, aerated waters ; C. R. Casey & Sons, steam tannery and larrigan factory ; H. R. Coates, children's boots and shoes ; Wm. Holmes, Wm. Delahunt, and Clifford Carter, carriage factories ; Dunlap Cooke & Co., manufacturing furriers and clothiers ; Chapman Bros. clothiers ; Amherst Red Sandstone Co. ; S. B. Andres, monumental works ; Biden's confectionery works ; Black Brothers, and three other bakers. The success which has attended manufacturing at Amherst fully establishes the fact that the location and general conditions are favorable to a large variety of such enterprises.

Amherst people have been well up to date in the use of electricity. The first newspaper office in Canada to adopt it as a motive power was that of the Amherst Gazette. The telephone was first used in the Maritimes by A. Robb & Sons, who in August, 1877, placed a line between their office and foundry. It is no longer wonderful to converse through 600 yds of wire, when we now easily do so through as many miles. The streets and many buildings are electrically lighted. A telephone exchange with 95 subscribers is a gratifying economizer of time and energy. The Western Union has two telegraph offices, and the Canada Pacific has an office.

The town owns an admirable water supply, which is a combination of the pumping and gravitation systems, and cost $80,000. In conjunction with a fine fire department and electric fire alarm system it affords ready protection to property, as by attaching hose to street hydrants several powerful streams may be simultaneously forced over the highest buildings. At the end of three years service it is estimated—allowing a fair rate for street hydrants—that before another year the revenue from water will fully meet the expenditure for interest and maintenance.

The climate is healthful and invigorating. While the press of Halifax and St. John are discussing the fog question, and the people of both cities are, perhaps, enveloped by the mist, we are basking in sunshine. The summer heat, also, which in our inland towns is sometimes oppressive, is here delightfully tempered by grateful breezes from the Bay of Fundy. Scarcely in the wide world is experienced a temperature nearer perfection than

is here enjoyed in the summer and early autumn. Then the gorgeous sunsets! Many persons who rhapsodize over the glories of an Italian sunset evidently fail to recognize the beauties of the horizon around them. There is a simple aphorism that far-off fields are greenest, and it too often finds an illustration in the fact that the measure of our appreciation of objects is in proportion to the distance by which they are removed from us. This is not more applicable to the beauties of Nature than it is to the merits of our whole domain—this fair Canada of ours. To the observant student of Nature, the radiant colorings and kaleidoscopic changes produced in the western sky as the sun sinks, gilding the hill-tops and throwing crimson tints over a cerulean background, are worthy a poet's description, and recall an excerpt from Thompson's "Seasons" :—

"What skill, what force divine,
Deep-felt, in these appear!
. . . so delightful felt, with such kind art,
Such beauty and beneficence combined;
Shade, unperceived so softening into shade,
And all so forming an harmonious whole."

To pass to more prosaic matters, it may be said that the stranger, in approaching Amherst from the west, is first impressed with the great expanse of marsh lying at the head of the Bay of Fundy. Ever since the early French settlers reclaimed this from the sea by a laborious system of banks called dykes, these alluvial lands, with little expense except for drainage, have continued to yield their grass crops, with little deterioration. The plain of 7,000 acres, stretching out from Amherst upland as far as the eye can reach, is a vital element in the progress of the town and the thrift of the neighboring country. With the dykes maintained in repair, the marshes, unlike the cyclone-swept plains of the west, have a comparative immunity from injurious influences. They were the scene of a memorable occurrence, however, in 1869. The barriers which for a century had withstood the pressure of the turbulent tides, were, on the night of October 4th, by a coincidence of spring tides and western gales which forced the waters up the contracting basin, overwhelmed, and at some points swept aside, by a rushing mighty flood or tidal

wave. The people of Amherst awoke in the morning to find before their doors a sea, quite picturesque to look upon, except to the farmer whose lands, yesterday dotted with hundreds of stacks and well-filled barns, have become a waste of water; while nearly all that was movable has been borne seaward by the receding tide or scattered in wild confusion. But a sadder story is that of the loss of human life, though, providentially this was wonderfully small, considering that miles of highway were submerged three feet and their bridges swept away. Two persons than living at Amherst—Henry Colburne and Norman Siddall—lost their lives while fleeing from the marsh to the Fort Lawrence upland in the midnight darkness. They, with Charles Campbell and Henry Wry, of Amherst, had been sent, early in the evening, by Alexander Robb, to assist in securing against the fury of the storm a stove-laden schooner which lay in the mouth of the LaPlanche at Fort Lawrence. The sea was too heavy for the vessel's boat, and Mr. Campbell, in order to take advantage of the earliest opportunity to accomplish the undertaking with which he had been charged, sought lodging with his men in an empty barn on the adjacent marsh. The prostration of the barn by the fury of the gale seemed so inevitable that they prepared for hasty exit from the windward side at the shortest notice. But the hour of terror endured there was trivial compared with what awaited them. The barn was struck as by a wave meeting the descending prow of a ship at sea, and rapidly accumulating water warned them of yet greater danger. By clinging to a fence which led straight to Busby Smith's house, they were able in the darkness to make a little progress through the water, until the strengthening current swept away men and fence. Campbell and Wry clung to a couple of fence poles which came in their way, and were floated, half-drowned, to the highway between Amherst and Fort Lawrence. Here the fence and standing telegraph poles formed a "boom," which held quantities of wooden wreckage, and on this surging material, by clinging to the fence, they made their way to the nearest house—Mr. Gordon's. The other men were drowned. Mr. Wry died at Springhill, not long ago, and Mr. Campbell, overcoming any terror of water he may have possessed, has become engineer of the Amherst Water-Works. John Smith, of Fort Lawrence, in driving from Amherst, plunged, with horse and carriage, into Gordon's Creek, from which the bridge had been swept. By grasping the harness, he was dragged out by his horse, though not without receiving serious injuries.

These are only examples of similar occurrences elsewhere contiguous to the Bay of Fundy. Although the principal force of the tide was exerted at the head of the bay, disastrous effects were produced by the gale and freshets over the area included between Truro and Central New York and Central Maine and Washington. The depth of water in the barn referred to was 5 ft 7 in The tidal wave was probably three feet above the dykes. The Sackville Borderer said it was estimated in that vicinity to have been six feet above the highest tides ever known. For a week boats were rowed over all parts of the marshes. The outlook for the farmers' live stock for the approaching winter was very gloomy, and to this were to be added large outlays for replacing dykes. A still greater evil, as viewed by many, was the effect upon future crops for years to come; but the wiser ones said the silt left by the tide would produce untold benefit; and they were right. In fact a much augmented permanent value would have been assured if the repairs had been longer delayed. The farmers' hearts were gladdened by the special fruitfulness of the next harvest and by a more productive yield of grass the following year than ever before.

Weather prophets are apt to be "damned with faint praise;" but it must be recorded to the credit of the profession that this storm, known as the Saxby Flood or Saxby Gale, according to locality, had been predicted by Lieut. Saxby, R. N. His warning received slight attention, however, except from mariners and ship owners, and it may be doubted that even he looked for a verification so pronounced.

Amherst has six churches and eight clergymen, also a Young Men's Christian Association, and a Salvation Army branch. The census of 1891 gave the numerical strength of the principal denominations as follows: Baptist 976, Methodist 772, R. Catholic 747, Church of England 635, Presbyterian 558, S. Army 44. The Methodist Episcopals were included with the Methodists.

Close touch has been kept with the progress of temperance work ever since the movement was inaugurated here by Rev. Charles Tupper. In 1848, one of the first divisions of the Sons of Temperance in the province was instituted in the dwelling of Amos Page, who was its first Worthy Patriarch, and who, aided by lifelong total abstinence, has attained the age of 92, and is our oldest citizen. Some historic interest attaches to the site of this dwelling, at the corner of Victoria and Eddy streets, now occupied by the Pugsley Block, on account of Jonathan

Eddy, leader of the rebellion against the troops of George III in 1776, having had his residence thereon.

The temperance bodies of the town, with the years of organization are: Amherst Division, S. of T., 1862; La Planche Lodge, I. O. G. T., 1865; Myrtle Juvenile Temple, 1882; W. C. T. Union, 1886, Pioneer Council, R. T. of Temperance, 1891; Catholic T. A. Society, 1891. Fraternal Societies: Acacia Lodge, A. F. & A. M., 1845; Ivy Lodge, I. O. O. F., 1878; Amherst Council, Royal Arcanum, 1880; Court Acadia, I O. Foresters, 1883; Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, 1891; L. Orange Lodge, No. 1628, 1892; Chignecto Lodge, Knights of Pythias, 1892; besides societies connected with the churches.

Amherst men who have held important public positions in the last forty years have been: Judges McCully, Townshend, Morse; Hon. R. B. Dickey, M. L. C. member of conference on Confederation, and senator; W. W. Bent, M. P. P.; Sir Charles Tupper, Premier of N. S., minister in Dominion cabinet, and Canadian High Commissioner in London; Sir C. H. Tupper and Hon. A. R. Dickey, Dominion cabinet ministers; W. T. Pipes, premier of N. S.; Hon. H. Black, M. L. C.; T. R. Black C. J. Townshend, G. W. Forrest, M's P. P.; W. H. Rogers, Inspector of Fisheries; Rev. S. McC. Black, editor of the Baptist organ of the Maritimes.

Amherst has given to public life brilliant talents in men of past and present generations; nor has the literary field been uncultivated. One of our citizens, Mrs. Grace Dean McLeod Rogers, has, though yet in early life, acquired, by her fine talents, devoted sometimes to subjects allied with the history of our own province, a high literary reputation, which has extended beyond the Dominion.

The mayors of the town have been Thomas Dunlap, Dr. Allan, Nat Curry: stipendiaries—Cyrus Black, T. J. Copp, W. F. Cutten, W. R. McCully, J. M. Townshend; town clerk and treasurer—W. F. Donkin.

An organization in which the citizens take great pleasure and pride is the Amherst Military Band, of 40 pieces. An efficient company of volunteer militia has been maintained here for thirty years.

In these days of the annihilation of space it becomes a marvel how busy people found time to travel, even only thirty years ago, for there were only 93 miles of railway in Nova Scotia, 108 in New Brunswick, and P. E. Island had not thought of such a thing. Now, we have in operation in Cumberland County alone 120 miles. The

Intercolonial Railway has been a most material factor in our development. Those parallel lines of steel stretching westward proclaim the progress of a mighty commercial revolution. In December 1870, the shriek of the first locomotive with passenger train to enter our town, awakened us to new activity as it announced our connection westward. Two years later we were in railway communication with Halifax. Our stone passenger station then erected marked the dawn of the stone age in our building operations. Six passenger trains now leave this station daily, giving us a continuous track 3524 miles, to Vancouver, 217 to North Sydney, and 327 to Yarmouth.

No reference to our commercial enterprises— no sketch of Amherst—should omit mention of the projected ship railway and of our citizen, H. G. C. Ketchum, C. E., the clever originator of the stupendous scheme for transporting vessels and their cargoes, up to 2000 tons weight, over the seventeen miles between the Bay of Fundy and Northumberland Straits. At Fort Lawrence is a basin, 530x300 ft., at the inner end of which is a lifting-dock, 230x60 ft., both 40 ft. deep, and constructed of first-class masonry. The latter is to contain twenty hydraulic presses for raising vessels to the level of the double line of rails, where they are to be locked solidly to a gridiron, which will be carried on the rails by 240 wheels, and drawn by powerful locomotives to the Tidnish terminus and there placed in the water. The rails have been laid and massive engine-houses built. The Chignecto Marine Transport Co., of London, Eng., after expending over three-quarters of the $4,500,000 needed for the work and apparatus, in the face of uncontrollable delays, reached the limit of time within which the Canadian Parliament required it to be completed before beginning the payment of an annual subsidy. Up to date, parliament has not deemed it expedient to extend the time. The practicability and utility of the work have been fully exemplified, and there is an ardent hope that the undertaking, of such consequence to the commercial interests of the country, may be carried to an early completion.

If the pessimist be sufficiently restrained—if with the God-given faculties and resources with which our people are endowed we move steadily forward—if we encourage a spirit of true patriotism—bright pages will be produced by him who shall write the history of Amherst for the next two or three decades. Let us be imbued with the spirit of Montgomery's lines :—

"Closer, closer let us knit,
Hearts and hands together;
Oh, they wander wide who roam
For the joys of life from home."

Our Educational Interests.

The names of the old teachers previous to the introduction of the present Common School System, as far as we can find : are the late Samuel O'Donnell who taught in what is now Albion Street. He was afterwards one of the Deputy Surveyors for the County of Cumberland. Died 1883, aged 80. James Ferguson a Scotchman, taught in and around Amherst for many years. Abel Gore, was distinguished more for his rhyming propensity than for any lasting impression in the teaching line. There is extant a rambling poem entitled "The Outlines of a speech to be delivered on the hustings." By Christopher Caustick Esq., printed in 1853, in which Mr. Gore gives free play to his sarcastic powers. D. Macaulay also taught about 1864.

Besides the above there must have been others, but these are the names that can be remembered, with the notable addition of Rev. Charles Tupper D. D., who taught the grammar school near the residence of J. Medley Townshend, Esq.

The History of our modern schools is before us in a succint paper, drawn up by E. J. Lay, Esq., Principal of Amherst Academy, from which we condense the following :–

The first recorded school meeting of Amherst School Section no. 40 was held in the Public Hall, on Oct. 16th 1865.

At that meeting Messrs. C. E. Ratchford, T. R. Black, and R. B. Huestis, were elected Trustees, and the sum of $400. voted to build a county academy. In addition to this, another $400 was voted to augment the Provincial and County grants for the support of schools for the year.

That same year Mr. Mellish was engaged as Head Master, and taught in the Church School House. At the same time a Mr. Reeve was teaching in the "Baker's School House." In March 1866 the site of Academy,one acre, was purchased from J. S. Morse for $300.

At the annual meeting of that year, the trustees reported they had engaged J. F. Mellish and the Misses Rachel Tupper, Ellen Page, Leake and Dimock as Teachers, and had contracted with Joseph Fillmore for the erection of the new Academy, W. D. Main, was elected trustee.

The standard for entering the Academy was placed much higher than in later times. The Principals who followed Mr. Mellish were Messrs. W. F. George, A. M., W. D. McKenzie, S. McCully, A. J. Eaton, F. H. Eaton, N. Smith, C. F. Hall E. J. Lay, (1881 and 1892.) H. S. Freeman, A. B.

In 1887, a committee was appointed to consider the propriety of erecting a brick building. In 1888, funds were voted to

build the school houses at the Highlands ; additional rooms were provided in the old Academy grounds. In 1889, it was decided to purchase the present site of the Academy from Senator Dickey. In 1890, the Act of Incorporation of the Town took matters out of the hands of the old Trustees and vested them in the Board of School Commissioners for the Town ; and in 1891 $25,000 was voted for the erection of the present building. In 1892, the corner stone was laid, and in 1893, Aug. 18, it was opened for teaching. It cost altogether about $32,000. It is built of brick and stone, contains thirteen rooms, assembly hall, laboratory, office, and rooms in basement for lavatories, etc. There are now fourteen teachers in the town, with a registered attendance of 900, The appropriation this year is $4,500,

The late Thos, Lusby, Esq., was the efficient Secretary of Trustees for nearly thirty years.

The Inspectors of School in the county from the beginning of the School Act are : Messrs. Christie, George, Darragh, Mackenzie, Lay and Craig.

The Religious Interests

THE NEW LIGHT MOVEMENT.

I find that Henry Alline, called a New Light minister, and who made a distinct religious impression on the Province in his travels, paid Amherst two visits, in 1781 and '82. [The late Luther Lusby, whom I buried in 1870, told me that he remembered seeing this Evangelist in his father's house, near the marsh, Mr. L. being then a mere child.] July 11, 1781, his journal records that "he crossed the river to Amherst Point, and preached there in the evening." "At Fort Lawrence on the 13th and 18th" ; "Near the garrison on the 19th." Again, on the 3rd of August, "preached with some success to some of the capital men of the place, * * ° and some of the officers of the garrison were very attentive." The commander invited him to dine, and treated him with great civility. This would be at Fort Cumberland. He speaks of "the church gathering together, without any bars or separation about different sects," etc. But where the church worshipped he does not indicate, He goes to Bay Verte, and returns on the 9th August to Cumberland, where some notable conversions took place. At the same time, 1772, Rev. Wm. Black's congregation suffered the loss of seventy, who went over to Mr. Alline

METHODISM.

The gentleman just named, was born in Huddersfield, England, in 1760, and removed to Amherst with his father, also William Black, in 1775. The family of Mr. Black shared in the blessing of a religious revival in Amherst in 1779. There

after, the young William devoted himself to the ministry of the Methodist Society, and became the father of Methodism in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, dying at Halifax in a good old age. The Methodist cause has continued from that time to the present, of late years increasing steadily. About 1819, Albert desBrisay, a young Methodist minister, stationed at Upper Maccan (Southampton), preached here once every third Sunday and formed a small class. He was succeeded by John Snowball, Matthew Richey, and other notable men. A meeting house stood for many years on the site of the present D. W. Douglas' property, and was moved to the corner of Maple Avenue seventeen years ago, since which time it has done duty as a Music Hall, but is now a dry goods store, etc. There was a small burying ground at this site. For many years this body has worshipped in a commodious edifice on Havelock Street.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CONGREGATION

Until of late years the Roman Catholic Congregation has been small, but with the growth of the town, many of that faith have settled here. The chapel was formerly in the R. C. Cemetery on the Highlands, but was removed to Church St., where it was the sanctuary until the present handsome structure was erected. Bishop Fraser was priest here about forty years ago, for a short time, and boarded with the late James McLaughlan, who lived opposite the old Baptist Mission House, in what is now Maple Avenue. This Body had up to 20 years ago, a monthly service ; but for years there has been a resident priest and a regular Sunday service.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

was as a matter of course early on the ground. Rev. Mr. Eagleson was in charge of the mission at Fort Cumberland, and in one of the skirmishes that took place during what is known as Eddy's Rebellion, 1779-1777—Mr. E. was carried away to New England. He effected his escape, and returned and labored for a time. But there does not seem to have been a resident clergyman in Amherst until 1823. Previous to that date, the Baptisms, Marriages and Births, were recorded elsewhere, perhaps at St. Paul's, Halifax. Canon Townshend has given some interesting information as to the history of the Parish Church. Christ Church was erected in 1823. The foundation was on the County Court House ground, but was taken up and removed a mile below the town, to a site which is now the church yard. Canon Townshend, feeling the great inconvenience and disadvantage of this situation, applied to the Bishop for permission to pull down the church, and to re-build it. After persevering some time the Court of Session granted Mr. T's. application for a site on the Court House ground. The Bishop refused to sanction this site, as he believed the sessions could not give a valid title. Finally Mr. Kniffin Purdy gave one-eighth of an acre, on which the church now stands. This building was opened for Divine service on Christmas day, 1842. At the laying of the corner stone the Chief Justice, Sir Brenton Halliburton, who was presiding in the Supreme Court at the time, officiated, and in his address stated that "on this very day fifty years ago, I marched through Amherst, in charge of a company of soldiers, en route for Halifax by the way of Parrsboro and Windsor."

The Rev. J. W. D. Gray officiated here, Feb. 1823, to Dec. 1827 ; Rev. Richard B. Wiggins Feb. 1828 to Sept. 1829 ; Rev. George S. Jarvis, Oct 1829 to May 1830 ; among others he solemnized the marriage of the late R. K. and Mrs. Smith ; Oct. 1830 to 1834 the Rev. R. B. Wiggins was again in charge. The Rev. George Townshend came to Amherst in 1834, and has held the office of rector since that time. After more than half-a-century's service Mr. T. retired from the active duties of the

parish, living in England for some years, but is at present in this country, enjoying the evening of life with his children. The church was enlarged and beautified under his ministry. He was a most assiduous pastor, very kind to the sick ; and friendly to everybody. He travelled and ministered in all the surrounding country. He was Chairman of School Commissioners for nearly forty years, giving his valuable services freely. Since Canon Townshend gave up the active duty of the parish it has been performed, now about eleven years, by Rev. V. E. Harris, the zealous vicar in charge.

AMERICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

A neat meeting house was some years ago built on the Highlands, for the use of the colored people. Several pastors of the Episcopal Methodist American church, have been stationed here, each staying three years or less. This body has also a comfortable parsonage. They are visited by a Bishop and other brethren from time to time. As a result of their labors, the people stand much higher morally and financially, many of them have respectable properties. They are a standing example like their Anglo Saxon neighbours, of the truth that Righteousness exalteth a nation. Rev. Messrs. Brown, Hill Crosby, and Hartly, have been the most notable of their ministers. Rev. Mr. Phipps, is at present in charge of this congregation.

THE PRESBYTERIANS.

The grantees of the township being many of them Presbyterians from the North of Ireland, a meeting house for that persuasion was erected on the N. E. side of the old burying-ground in what became a part of the farm of the late Enoch Embree. In Doctor James McGregor's Life there are references to a visit made to this congregation, and of his unsuccessful attempt to secure a stated ministry for them. A gentleman (name not given) went to Pictou to crave a supply, with a petition subscribed by a number of persons here. This person on his return brought the good man with him, both being on horseback. Dr. McG. says: "They were a pious, intelligent people, who much regretted their situation, destitute of a gospel minister." Before he left them they signed a petition to the Secession Synod in Scotland for a minister, which he transmitted. He represented "that the Amherst Presbyterians were not numerous, but the neighborhood was populous and without ministers." This was in 1788. Though promises were made by one or two, none came. In 1809, or thereabouts, the Rev. George Mitchell staid a short time and then removed to River John. There was also a Rev. John Liddell, pastor abont 1820. He supplemented his other labors by teaching school for two years. Probably a Mr. Wilson was pastor a short time.

THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN.

The second stage in the history of Presbyterians here, begins with the arrival of Rev. Alexander Clarke in 1827. Mr Clarke spent a long life in promulgating the Gospel as held by the Reformed Presbyterian church. His field of labor em-

braced River Philip, Maccan, Shemogue, and Goose River. He built meeting houses to the number of fifteen in his sphere of labor. He was a strong man, physically and intellectually, and did yeoman's service. He lived in Amherst, about two miles and a half to the North, on a place he reclaimed from the wilderness. He connected himself with the synod of the Reformed Presbyterians in the United States. This body sent him, successively as assistants Henry Gordon, Andrew Gailey, W. F. Darragh, John Alford, Archibald Thompson, and Samuel Boyd. In 1856, Mr. C. received the degree of D. D. He died in March, 1874, after nearly half a century of labor.

After the death of Dr. Clarke, Rev. S. D. Yates spent some years looking after the different congregations of that Communion, but owing to physical break-down, removed to the U. S. and died there.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

The third step in connection with this Denomination, is the gathering of a congregation by the Presbyterian Church of Canada. First meeting in a hall, they grew steadily, so that they were able to build the church at the corner of Lawrence and Victoria Streets. Their ministers have been Rev. Thos Tallach, (deceased.) Rev. Frederick Archibald (also deceased,) and Rev. D. McGregor who is now in the eleventh year of his pastorate. Their house of worship has been once enlarged and lately a new organ has been built.

THE SALVATION ARMY

have also pitched their tent here, and are endeavoring in their own way to make war upon the citadel of the enemy.

Thus it well be seen that Amherst has all the elements of an embryo city. There is a good future before it, and it will build up steadily and solidly. All we need is faith in ourselves, in our country, and in our God.

Except the Lord build the City they labor in vain who build it

CHARLES R. SMITH, Q. C.

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NOTARY, ETC.

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LOGAN & CASEY.

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